

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1, 6, 9, 14, 20, and 24 are currently amended.

Support for the amendment to the claims can be found in the specification at page 10, lines 14-17, page 3, lines 5-8, and page 4, lines 19-20, as originally filed.

No new matter has been added by the amendments.

Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-29 will be pending in the present application.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

The claimed invention relates to a long-life heat-resisting low alloy steel welded component and a method of manufacturing the same that reduces the amount of coarse carbides, which cause to damages of type 4, remaining in the base metal. In particular, before the base metal is welded, it is subjected to normalizing once or more times, thereby reducing the amount of coarse carbides. The reference of record does not describe or suggest a reduction in an amount of coarse carbides that cause creep damage of type 4.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by European Patent Application No. 1143026 A1 ("EP'026") is traversed and obviated by amendment.

In particular, in response to the Examiner's assertions in the Advisory Action dated April 25, 2006, Applicants have amended claims 1, 6, 9, 14, 20, and 24 to recite that "the base metal is normalized once or more times before the welding in addition to the hot working so as to reduce an amount of coarse carbides, which cause creep damage of type 4, remaining in the base metal."

Moreover, as discussed in Applicant's remarks and the evidence submitted in the Response and Request for Reconsideration filed April 5, 2006, incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, creep damage of type 4 is one of the various creep damages that can occur in a heat-affected zone (HAZ) of a welded metal component. This type of damage significantly reduces the lifetime of the welded metal component. Therefore, there is a need for the prevention of the coarse carbides that causes this type of damage, which is accomplished by the claimed invention.

In contrast, there is no description or suggestion in the EP'026 reference of the reduction of coarse carbides that specifically cause creep damage of type 4. Moreover, there is no evidence, based on the general methods and heat treatment described in the reference,

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Amendment under 37 CFR § 1.114

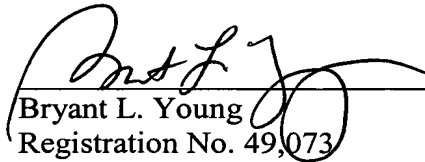
that creep damage of type 4 would even be effected. Therefore, the claimed invention is novel and unobvious over the reference.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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